

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 /077 W

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P R 311500Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1454

INFO AMEMBASSY BANJUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GAMBIA PRESIDENT JAWARA TO CONAKRY

REF: BANJUL 1218 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT JAWARA OF GAMBIA ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND LARGE DELEGATION INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER, ARRIVED CONAKRY LATE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 29 FOR WORKING VISIT DESCRIBED ALSO BY GUINEAN RADIO AS "PERIODIC RENEWAL OF CONTACT". THOUGH ORIGINAL SCHEDULE FOR VISIT INDICATED JAWARA WOULD STAY ONLY ONE NIGHT, IN FACT VISIT PROLONGED UNTIL DEPARTURE DECEMBER 31. GUINEAN'S GENERALLY PLAYED VISIT IN LOW-KEY WITHOUT USUAL IDEOLOGICAL BOMBAST.

2. MOST DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS WERE AWARE OF JAWARA'S RECENT CONTACTS WITH SENGHOR AND ASSUMED THAT GAMBIA PRESIDENT WAS CONTINUING HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS BETWEEN SENGHOR AND SEKOU

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TOURE. MOST ALSO ASSUMED THAT TOURE WOULD SEIZE OCCASION TO

PERSUADE JAWARA TO SUPPORT MPLA IN ANGOLA. LATTER SPEC)--
TION REINFORCED BY APPEARANCE IN CONAKRY PALAIS DU PEUPLE
EVENING DECEMBER 30 -- IM CULTURAL PRESENTATION IN JAWARA'S
HONOR -- OF OFFICIAL MPLA DELEGATION WHO INTRODUCED TO CHEERING
AUDIENCE ALONG WITH GAMBIAIAN PRESIDENT.

3. DURING AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES MORNING DECEMBER 31,
SOVIET AN-24, PROBABLY PART OF ANGOLAN AIRLIFT, LANDED AND
TAXIED SO CLOSE TO ASSEMBLED GUINEAN DIGNITARIES AND ENTIRE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT GAMBIAIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM WAS COMPLETELY
DROWNED OUT.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY CANNOT JUDGE HOW MUCH INFLUENCE SEKOU
TOURE WAS ABLE TO EXERT ON JAWARA TO RECOGNIZE MPLA REGIME,
BUT WE ARE SURE THAT GUINEANS MADE ALL-OUT EFFORT.
MACDONALD

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